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500.38017X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): K. KATO, et al

Serial No.: 09/446,507

Filed: December 27, 1999

For: PHASE-LOCKED LOOP CIRCUIT, INFORMATION
PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND INFORMATION
PROCESSING SYSTEM

Group: 2631

Examiner: T. Bocure

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Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 20, 2003

Sir:

The following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated January 22, 2003 and the subsequent Interview Summary of January 28, 2003 mailed on January 29, 2003.

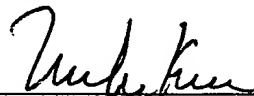
Based upon the subsequent communication, it appears that a restriction requirement is set forth between Group I, claims 1-17, 24 and 26 and Group II, claims 18-23, 25, 27 and 28-31. The requirement for restriction is traversed in that applicants submit that claim 24 of Group I recites the feature of first and second current switch circuits having the features as recited in independent claim 18 of Group II. Thus, applicants submit that Groups I and II relate to a single general inventive concept.

In order to provide a complete response to the restriction requirement, applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the invention of Group I including claims 1-17, 24 and 26.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement and favorable action with respect to all claims present in this application are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.38017X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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